



## The beauty of Art will save us

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It is with great pleasure and excitement that I present this December issue of *JEAHIL*. Its monographic section “Medicine and art – science and emotion” edited by Peter Morgan, former President of EAHIL (2011-2012) and Head of Medical and Science Libraries, Cambridge University Library, UK, truly makes it an exceptional issue!

Before diving in, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Peter for accepting the role of guest editor. When I proposed the relation between art and science/medicine as a possible theme at the Editorial Board meeting in Cardiff, 2018, the first name that came to my mind was that of Peter Morgan. This issue’s topic is one I personally feel very close to my heart, and, although I hoped for Peter as an editor, I wasn’t sure he would have accepted. On the contrary, he, intrigued and tempted, gladly agreed. What a great honor for *JEAHIL*!

Peter’s extensive research allowed him to assess the best route towards examining such a broad and complex subject, and to develop those areas that were most stimulating and inspiring for medical librarians and information specialists. He also managed to gather excellent and original contributions from authors originating from a variety of different backgrounds. In his captivating introduction (Preface), Peter offers a thorough and widespread overview of this vast topic by examining its different aspects and possible readings.

I would also like to thank each and every author for presenting their brilliant contributions for this issue. They have given us the opportunity to reflect upon the role of art, and most importantly reminded us to let ourselves be inspired by its many healing possibilities.

Although art often represents realities of immense suffering and profound sorrow, I believe it is its *beauty* which shall eventually save us all. We shouldn’t just meditate upon this, but rather commence practicing and using it as a “medicine” to heal our wounds. Allow it to improve our state of general well-being and health which, as we all know from the WHO definition, is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

As most of you probably know, our dear colleague Laura Shane Godbolt left us on the 24th of November. An Obituary, by S. Bakker, is published in this issue, while the Editorial Board is exploring other editorial initiatives to honor Shane's memory and her involvement in EAHIL.

Finally, as this is the December issue, I would like to look back and thank all those who have contributed to the journal this past year. It has been an enthusiastic collaboration by part of the members of the Editorial Board, authors, editors and reviewers of the journal. You have all painted such wonderful pictures for the readers to enjoy! Which brings me to my final thank you of the year: thank you to all those who read the journal and make everyone’s hard work worth the while!

*Paint can mend the cracks of a broken spirit.*

*Season’s greetings to you all*

*Federica*